WHD – pg. 306, “The Character of Slavery”

Views:

1. Ulrich B. Philips-1918-*American Negro Slavery*- portrayed slavery as really a benign institution, relationship between masters and AA (African-Americans).
2. Melville J. Herskovits(1941) and Herbert Aptheker(1943) – challenged Philips’ view, AA today retains very little of their original culture, and challenged Philips’ view on blacks as submissive and content.
3. Kenneth Stampp and Stanley Elkins-1956 and 1959-*The Peculiar Institution* and *Slavery*- portrayed slavery as an institution similar to prison, compared to Holocaust.
4. John Blassingame-1973-N/A- argued that “the most remarkable aspect of the whole process of enslavement is the extent to which the American-born slaves were able to retain their ancestor’s culture.”
5. Herbert Gutman-1976-*The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom*- challenged belief that slavery had weakened and destroyed the African-American family.
6. Eugene Genovese-1974-*Roll, Jordan, Roll*- said that they took advantage of the paternalist assumptions to build a place for themselves.
7. Robert Fogel + Stanley Engerman-N/A-*Time on the Cross* – bit of a mix of Gutman and Genovese, but went further to say slavery was humane.
8. Elizabeth Fox-Genovese-1988-*Within the Plantation Household*- portrayed slave women as defined by their dual roles as members of the plantation work force and anchors of the black family.

I agree with Philips’ view on how slavery was, but also agreed with Stampp and Elkins. The slaves had been treated rather fairly, sometimes positive as Philip had said, because it will cause fewer feelings for rebellion which the Southerners had feared. On the other hand, there were AA slaves that have been treated harshly, and in plantations, it was a bit like prison, they had to work and sleep in the same place, except that they were punished for not working hard enough, execution today was for more serious actions than in the past – they had killed AA slaves on/not on purpose.